



If you think Royal visits are always very formal...

... then you will be surprised at the picture of H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent, patron of The Spastics Society reaching out of the crowd to shake hands with Valerie Nixon in her wheelchair. The Duchess was making an "informal, private visit" to the new Chiltern House Family Help Unit at Oxford, and met and chatted with everybody present at this most relaxed of occasions. More informal pictures on page 5.

Ulster workers brave bombs and riots for Spastics Week record

A magnificent effort went into making Spastics Week a success, but pride of place for endeavour must go to the volunteers in strife-torn Northern Ireland who braved bombs, bullets and riots to bring in a record collection.

Mr. Roderick Hamilton, Appeals Organiser of the Northern Ireland Council for Orthopaedic Development, which is affiliated to The Spastics Society told Spastics News: "We thought out collection would be down, not up, and at first we doubted if we would have enough collectors. In fact, we raised £8,500 — £1,500 more than last year — and we had 1,400 volunteers.

"They were marvellous because it was very difficult going out at night, and in fact, the collectors were out in Londonderry when rioting started. Luckily, there was no trouble."

Spastics Week was held throughout Ulster from April 29th to May 5th—at the same time as in England and Wales—but money raising had to be confined to "door knock" house to house collections, because of the warlike situation there.

Mr. Hamilton explained: "We couldn't organise any concerts or film shows because people are scared to congregate in any numbers — it's too dicey to go out at night but they went out of their way to give. Strabane for instance is only a small town with a population of about 3,000 and the people there contributed £1,200 which is phenomenal for a door-knock in a troubled area.

"We ordered 120,000 envelopes from London and every one was delivered — we actually ran out. People collected them by going out for 20, taking them home and going out for 20 more, rather

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In the peaceful City of London, spastic Andrew Berry sells a flag to a policeman during City flag day. Many spastics did sterling work with collecting tins in the City, and the picture at the bottom of the page shows a party from the Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare Society work centre at Pinner arriving for duty.



Writers and artists

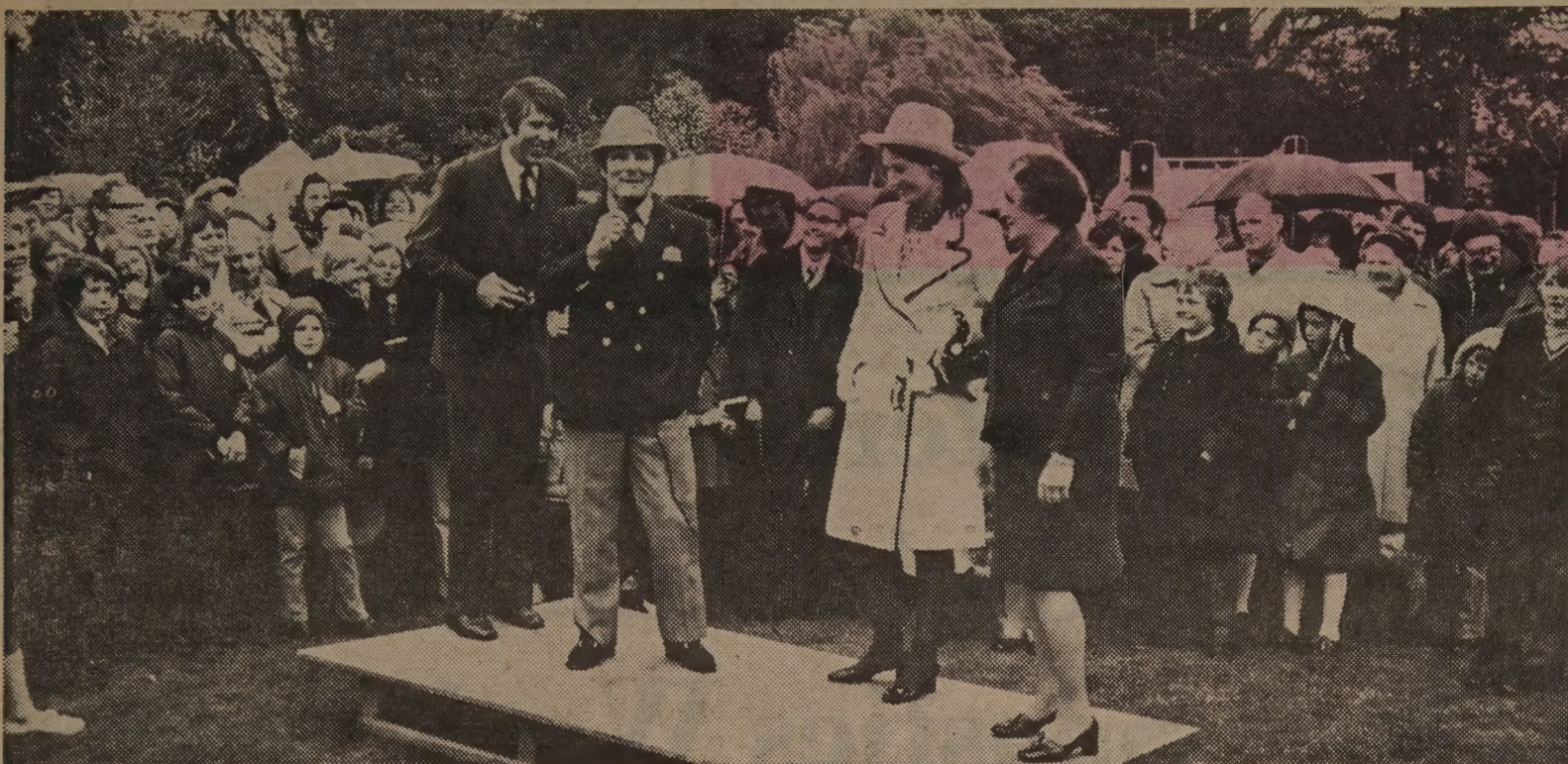
A YEAR ago young Vincent Freeman of Carlson House School, Birmingham saw a programme on Unidentified Flying Objects. That gave him the idea for a story which won him the first prize in the Schoolboys section of the Society's Literary Contest for spastics. Judge Esther Rantzen commented: "What an exciting story! I enjoyed every minute of it. And the pictures too. Thank you." And so while Vincent's school mates were hard at work in school on Wednesday, May 9, he was at the reception at The Society's London headquarters to receive his prize from Mrs. Mary Wilson, wife of the Opposition Leader.

He's the middle one of his family, with an older sister and a younger brother. "When the letter telling me I'd won arrived I went and woke my mum up and told her — and she fell asleep again. I never thought I'd win. Twenty-nine others at the school entered and two won consolation prizes."

Vincent, the youngest prize-winner in the contest is pictured discussing his entry with Mrs. Wilson. Turn to centre pages for more news about the contest and the winners.

Picture below left shows another spastic meeting a celebrity as Sarah Newhams shares a cup of tea with Max Bygraves at the wheelchair dance festival. Story and pictures on back page.





Mr. Heath to have tea with newly-weds in "dream" home

NEWLY-WEDS Stephen and Christine Mackenzie will have a very important guest to tea on June 27—none less than the Prime Minister.

For on that day Mr. Heath will be opening Habinteg's Haringey development, Moira Close. Habinteg, the housing association building specially designed homes for disabled alongside housing for the able-bodied, is sponsored by The Spastics Society.

Stephen and Christine (who are both spastics) moved into their Habinteg flat at the end of May.

"It's a dream come true for them" said Miss Kathy Williams, administrative officer of Habinteg. "They have battled against immense opposition and after a four-year engagement finally married in March."

Stephen was trained at Lancaster and is a capstan lathe operator and the family breadwinner. Christine was at the Chingford centre.

Seventeen of the 58 flats in the development are specifically for the disabled and their refinements include fuse boxes

money for Habinteg is Mr. Moore the ambulance driver—he and his family live in one of the 58 flats and Mr. Moore has undertaken to landscape the three acres of ground that Moira Close is set in.

It is certainly an attractive site for one of the new residents compared with his last home. That had been built on the "flight path" of local rats and his son would take up his shot gun and pick the rodents off before they ran through the house.

Moira Close is not exclusively for spastics, the disabled tenants include those with muscular dystrophy, arthritis, cardiac trouble, amputees, and those suffering from paraplegia as a result of road accidents.

£100,000 adventure holiday centre for handicapped

TYPICAL old grey stone farm buildings set deep in the Cornish countryside are to be incorporated into a £100,000 combined adventure holiday and marine biology field study centre for the handicapped.

The Society's architects have drawn up the plans for the centre which is in the tiny village of Lanlivery, two miles from Lostwithiel.

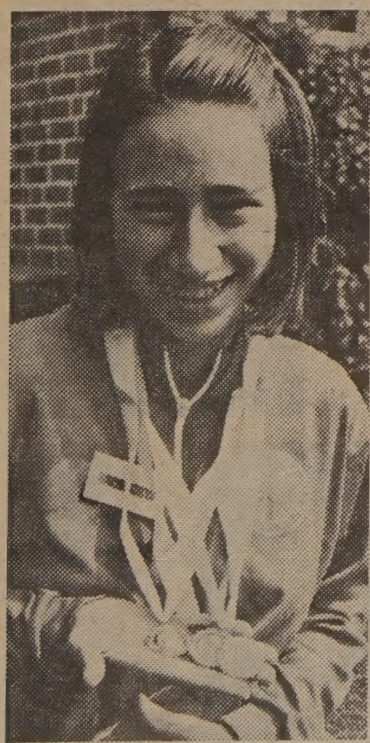
The land has been donated by the Chairman of the Cornwall Spastics Society and already other offers of help have been accepted for the development which is due to start in the autumn.

The Army has agreed to do the earthworks as part of a training exercise and the Army apprentice school has offered to do other work on the site. The leisure equipment firm, En-Tout-Cas, which makes swimming pools and tennis courts, is donating a swimming pool. An aquaria will give free sessions to students from the centre.

There will be accommodation for 25 students ranging in age from about six or seven to 16 and 17. In addition to their marine biology studies there will be facilities for canoeing, riding and walking, so that the boundaries between work and play will merge.

It is the first ever field study centre for the handicapped and will be open to both spastics and other physically disabled students.

A fund raising project for the centre will be launched in Cornwall soon.



Ruth Allen, aged 15, of Wolverhampton, was asked to a Reception given by the Mayor and Mayoress of Wolverhampton in connection with the "Sport For All" campaign. Ruth, who won three Gold Medals at the 1972 European Spastics Games, was invited as one of the people "who have brought honour to Wolverhampton in the world of sport."

Ruth is now eagerly counting the days until the next Regional Games at Stamford this month.

BAD weather could not dim the enthusiasm of stars and crowds at the fete held in aid of Wakes Hall, the Essex residential centre run by the Stars Organisation for Spastics. Nor did it have much effect on the proceeds, as a magnificent £2,000 was raised.

The picture above shows the opening ceremony with Leslie Crowther, Dickie Henderson, the Hon. Mrs. James Ogilvy, the President of the S.O.S. and Mrs. Joyce Gill, at whose home, Stour, East Bergholt, the fete was held.

Over 5,000 people visited the fete, where there were more than 20 stalls manned by members of S.O.S., and Friends of Wakes Hall, plus a tombola with 1,000 prizes, fashion shows and a host of other attractions.

The proceeds were swelled by a mystery £200. It came in the form of a bundle of £5 notes from an elderly gentleman who wished to remain anonymous.

Staff at Wakes Hall said that the generous donor told them he had decided to give his savings to a charitable cause and as he had heard of Wakes Hall he decided to go along and hand the money over. His savings had come from a life-time spent working on the land.

North Hants. and West Surrey Spastics Society have managed to "recruit" 250 apprentice tradesmen from the local R.A.O.C. Apprentice College to help with their "door knock" in aid of group funds. Their Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. R. Matthews, has given valuable assistance in the operation.



As a sequel to their Spastics Week flag day, the Halifax and District Spastics Society opened its work centre to the public so that local benefactors could see how their money was being spent.

The work on show included the preparation of shoe laces, material samples and electrical and machine tool items.

Among the visitors at the open day were the Mayor and Mayoress of Hal-

A walk in the forest for London's '62 Club

JOE BROWN, the pop star and entertainer will be playing a different role on Saturday, June 9. He will put the London '62 Club sponsored walk entrants under starter's orders and see them off on a 10 mile hike through Epping Forest.

The walk is to raise funds for Club activities, especially to enable members to attend the Biennial Conference at Reading University in September organised by the Association of '62 Clubs. Another aim is that the Club's principle of integration will be put into practice with plenty of non-handicapped walkers joining in.

There will be amenities along the route with The King's Oak pub as a halfway-stage. Ice cream vans will also be on hand for the children on the walk. Merle Davis asks anyone who is interested in joining the walk, which has a coach leaving Fitzroy Square, London, W.1, at 9.30 a.m., to ring her at the Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre, 387 9571 for a walk form. Marshals are also needed for the event.

Ulster workers brave bombs

Cont. from Page 1

than risking trouble by carrying 100 or so. Fortunately there was no trouble of any sort, although there could have been some nasty situations.

"People went out of their way to be generous when they saw who we were and we're overwhelmed by their kindness."

"Over the water" in more peaceful conditions, voluntary groups were able to organise a myriad of events to raise money during Spastics Week. But the biggest concentration of forces was, like Northern Ireland, on a door knock.

One million collection envelopes carrying a message of the need for funds, and giving information on the way the funds would be used to help spastics, were sent out from the Society's headquarters in London for distribution. This represents two years' stock which went out in 10 weeks, and shows the enthusiasm with which groups responded to an extra effort for the big week.

So many

It would be impossible to report on all the events which took place up and down the country during the intensive period—many of them are reported on other pages of Spastics News—but here are two typical examples of the way spastics themselves,

and just one group responded to the challenge of Spastics Week.

Slough and District '62 Club which has many members from the Society's Princess Marina Centre at Seer Green, Bucks, organised a wheelchair sponsored walk which is expected to have raised £180. In spite of torrential rain at times and a fairly arduous course of seven miles, 27 handicapped people took part aided by willing "pushers" from a school and local organisations.

In all, the staff and spastics at the Princess Marina Centre raised £260 during the week.

Outside help

At the South Humberside Spastics Society, officials not only organised novel events themselves, but sought support from other local organisations. As a result teams from the fire brigade, Round Tables, youth clubs, nurses, and public houses took part in an amusing and highly successful bed race on Cleethorpes Promenade, which raised £141 by collections among the big crowds.

The bed race was so popular that it will become an annual event, and so will a darts competition, another successful experiment by the group. The competition started in 26 pubs before Spastics Week, and the final on May 4th, was not only "a good night out" said a spokesman, but raised £188.

Money was also raised by collections in clubs, and some of them even ran their own Spastics Weeks for the group. The Waverly club in Cleethorpes, for instance, raised £170.

In addition to all this activity, South Humberside group also staged a fashion show and a wine and cheese evening attended by civic dignitaries, and expects to have raised £800 throughout the week.

It is hard work like this that makes Society officials confident that when all the returns are in from voluntary groups, Spastics Week will have proved to be a great financial success.

AGE NO BAR...

MRS. Florence Clarke from Norwich has just completed her fourth solo charity walk at the age of 73.

With her latest stroll from Norwich to Yarmouth she hopes to have raised more than £200 from sponsors. The money will be divided between Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association and local scouts and cubs.

fax, Ald. and Mrs. Maurice Jagger. They are seen in the picture with Work Centre Manager Mr. R. H. Binns, and operatives Carol Boulby, left, and Enid Littlewood.

Halifax Evening Courier

Here I see the bravest kind of bravery says courageous Sir Geoffrey Jackson

SIR GEOFFREY JACKSON, the diplomat who became a national hero because of his courage during his imprisonment by guerillas, gave the address at the Service of Dedication for Spastics Week, and told the congregation of spastics and the people who help them: "National Spastics Week renders a service to our entire nation. It reminds us to forget our trivial grouches against fate, and to thank God for his many blessings, not the least of which is this valiant example of courage and achievement personified here today."

Everyone, said Sir Geoffrey, was to a certain extent locked within the prison of his own body: "But for most of us, and for most of our lives, our body is a desirable detached residence, complete with all mod. con., and highly functional and up-to-date."

"When it isn't, and on the odd occasions when something goes wrong with it — don't we just create about it! A spot of rheumatism —

"I tell you, my arms were sheer agony!" A crick in the back "D'you know, for five full minutes I couldn't budge!" A headache—"My dear, I thought the top of my head was coming off!"

"These are all very real sufferings, and we musn't undersell them. But what about still more real sufferings that, unlike these, don't leave us in a matter of hours or, at the most, days? What about the body which isn't just any old prison but a permanent and very incommensurable one, a recalcitrant prison in which it is uncommonly hard to make oneself at home? This is the kind of prisoner who needs real courage, heart and faith, and the staying-power to say 'This is mine, and I'm going to make the very best of it.'"

"My theme this afternoon is, by request, that of suffering. But the occasion which brings us all here is the initiation of National Spastics Week of which the theme, in its turn, is courage and achievement."

It was to achievement that Sir Geoffrey now turned, and referred to the Society's Achievement Award for spastics, which was held recently for the first time and which is to become an annual event. Sir Geoffrey was a member of the judging panel and also

presented the Award to Dick Boydell, whose very severe handicaps have not prevented him from becoming a computer expert.

The Achievement Award, said Sir Geoffrey "had a major impact on my recent view of life."

"I had seen suffering before; and I had seen courage before. But never had I seen so much collective and concentrated suffering. And never had I seen so straight and firm a collective back turned on it."

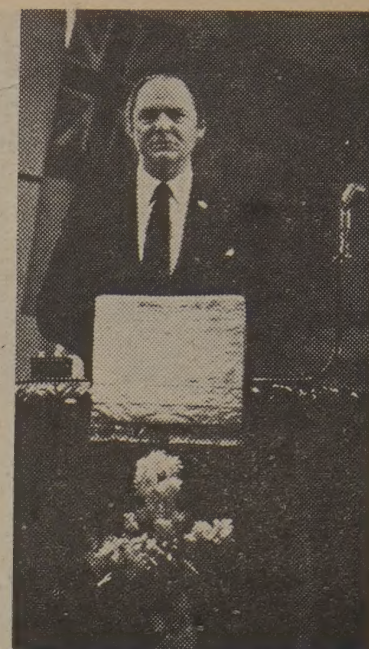
"Each of those wonderful human beings whose hand I was privileged to shake was an unforgettable person. But together they, and their parents and friends, and the officers of The Spastics Society who so obviously, and so

deeply care for them, gave a wonderful composite view of mankind at its very best in a world supposedly increasingly indifferent to valour, integrity, and disinterested affection."

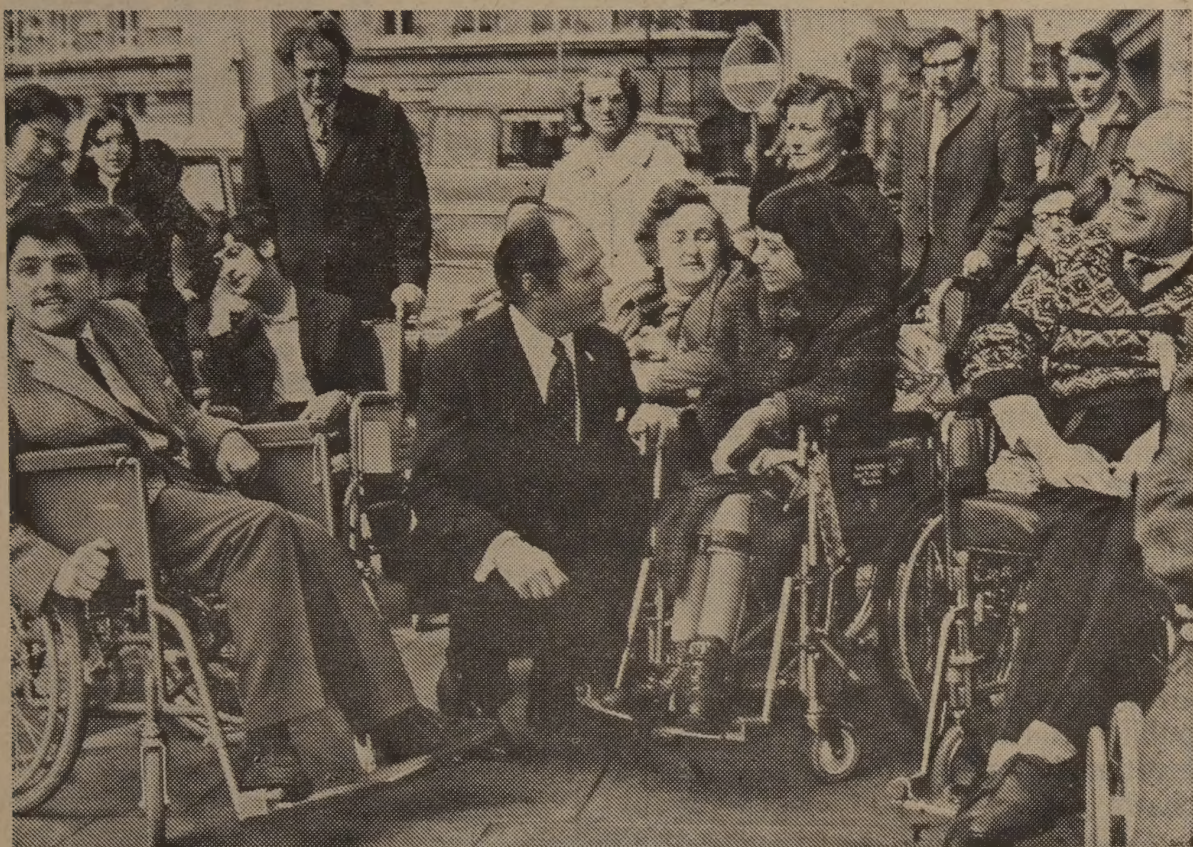
"Most of us are, in all fairness, capable of instants of great courage. But when we analyse its motive, as often as not it is fleeting, and perhaps not very admirable — a reaction of fear or anger perhaps, or possessiveness, or even simple human vanity. And almost invariably prompted by that swift and effective rush of adrenalin surviving in our body-chemistry from the old Neanderthal days."

"But the bravest bravery of all is the long-term bravery,

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ABOVE: Sir Geoffrey giving the address at the Service of Dedication for Spastics Week.



TOP PICTURE: Wheel-chairs line up along the aisle at St. Martin-in-the Fields. Many spastics made long journeys to attend the service.

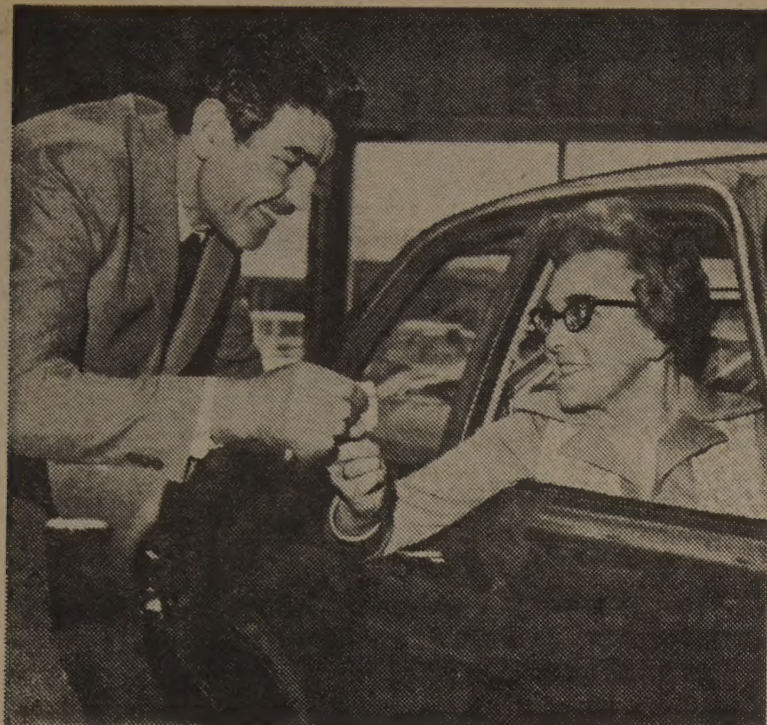
ABOVE: Sir Geoffrey meets a group from Coombe Farm centre for spastics outside the church. Their warden Mr. Peter Lee is standing in the background.

LEFT: Diana Brown of the Princess Marina Centre reads a lesson during the service. Below: A group from the Society's Drummonds centre arriving at the church.



LEFT: All London's landmarks seem to present problems of access. Here willing helpers carry wheelchair and occupant up the steep steps of the church. ABOVE: Merle Davies, administrative secretary of the London '62 Club read a lesson. She is pictured with two police cadets who provided voluntary help at the service. BELOW: A party from Wakes Hall Centre.





LEFT: "I think you'll need these" appears to be the comment made by former heavy-weight boxing champion Jack Gardner as he presents the keys of a Vauxhall Viva car to Mrs. Glover of Leicester. Mrs. Glover's entry in Charm Girl Competition number two proved to be a lucky one.

RIGHT: A footballer to present a win on the football pool, that sounds right to anyone and certainly did to Mr. N. Kemp of Mitcham, Surrey who received £1,184.41 from Chelsea footballer Ian Britton. Our picture shows from, left to right, the lucky member, Ian Britton and area representative Mr. V. Currell.



Listening to views of handicapped

TWENTY-TWO mentally handicapped people were delegates to a weekend conference during May 18-20 entitled "Listen". They were joined by representatives of the Campaign for the Mentally Handicapped, the Department of Health's Chief Nursing Officer for Mental Handicap, four nurses, four group leaders, two of Camden's day-care team and Mr. James Loring the Director of The Spastics Society.

The conference was held at the Fitzroy Industrial Centre, Greenwood Place, Kentish Town and was the second of its kind. Last year a residential conference was held at the Society's Staff Training Centre. This time the idea was to see how successful such a conference could be when delegates came from a local area rather than all over the country and used facilities put at their disposal by a local authority.

Discussions

There were five discussion groups and a full group discussion and said Peter Moss, one of the organisers. "It went reasonably well. We talked for about five hours, and we did a lot of things together. For instance confidences were exchanged and one hostel resident took people home to see his room. Five were living in hostels, eleven were in a hospital and the rest lived at home. Of course it is difficult if people have been living in a situation for 10-20 years and then subjected to a stimulating weekend and then to go back to the same situation.

"However it's a beginning; we believe that the mentally handicapped should be given more of a chance to develop their lives."

In addition to the working aspect of the conference, delegates also joined together decorating the centre for a Folk Evening and on Sunday there was a barge trip through Little Venice to the Cockpit Theatre.

A report of the Conference will be available from 96 Portland Place in about two months time.

Supporters vote gala weeks a great success



Three of the visitors to Ingfield Manor meeting some of the young pupils.



Cricketer Colin Milburn gives a helping hand to car winner Mr. C. Inglis of Great Doddington who is trying the new Vauxhall Viva. The presentation was at the showroom of Croyland Motors, Oxford Street, Wellingborough.

Friends at the Fair

FOR the second year running, the Friends of Phoenix Centre, Kent, ran a children's funfair at Biggin Hill Air Fair by permission of the Exhibition Company, and despite one very wet day the three day operation raised approximately £1,300 in addi-

tion to the "friends of Friends" and volunteers from the staff of the Society, the effort was assisted by hostesses from British Midland Airways, British United Airways and El Al, and Round Tablers from Biggin Hill and Beckenham.

FROM the comments made by guests at Broadreeds and Blackpool holiday centres, the two gala weeks for Spastics Pool supporters achieved their objectives. Although the guests were on holiday the two weeks proved to be excellent public relations exercises for both Top Ten Promotions and The Spastics Society.

Top Ten Promotions were represented by a team from Bristol led by director, Don Long, and included the organiser of the Collectors' Club, George Abbott; Ron Sheppard who was responsible for administration, John Pritchard, Martyn Mathias and Grant Witchell from the public relations department and a number of charm girls.

Arrangements for the weeks were made by Top Ten Travel and the company was represented by directors Derek Hudson, and John Osman.

The team from Top Ten Promotions were introduced on the Sunday evenings and a full company presentation incorporating slides and film were held on the Thursday evenings.

"A wonderful exercise of considerable benefit to the Society" remarked Anthony Frank, Assistant Director,

Regions, when he visited Blackpool. "In particular I am delighted that so many of the guests at both Broadreeds and Blackpool had the opportunity of visiting Society centres which enabled supporters of the Pool to witness at first hand the work that has been achieved as a result of the money raised by them."

Visits were arranged to Ingfield Manor School and the Southampton Day and Work Centre from Broadreeds, and from Blackpool, to Daresbury Hall, Birtenshaw School and the Lancaster Training Centre.

Frankie Spray and Tony Blakey of the Society's Information Dept., also spent several days at both centres representing the Society. One of the happiest persons at the end of the fortnight was Arthur Dobson manager of the Homework Section of the Society who more than doubled his target figure for sales of goods made by spastics. There was always a crowd of eager buyers around his stall which was manned by him and his assistants from early morning until late evening.

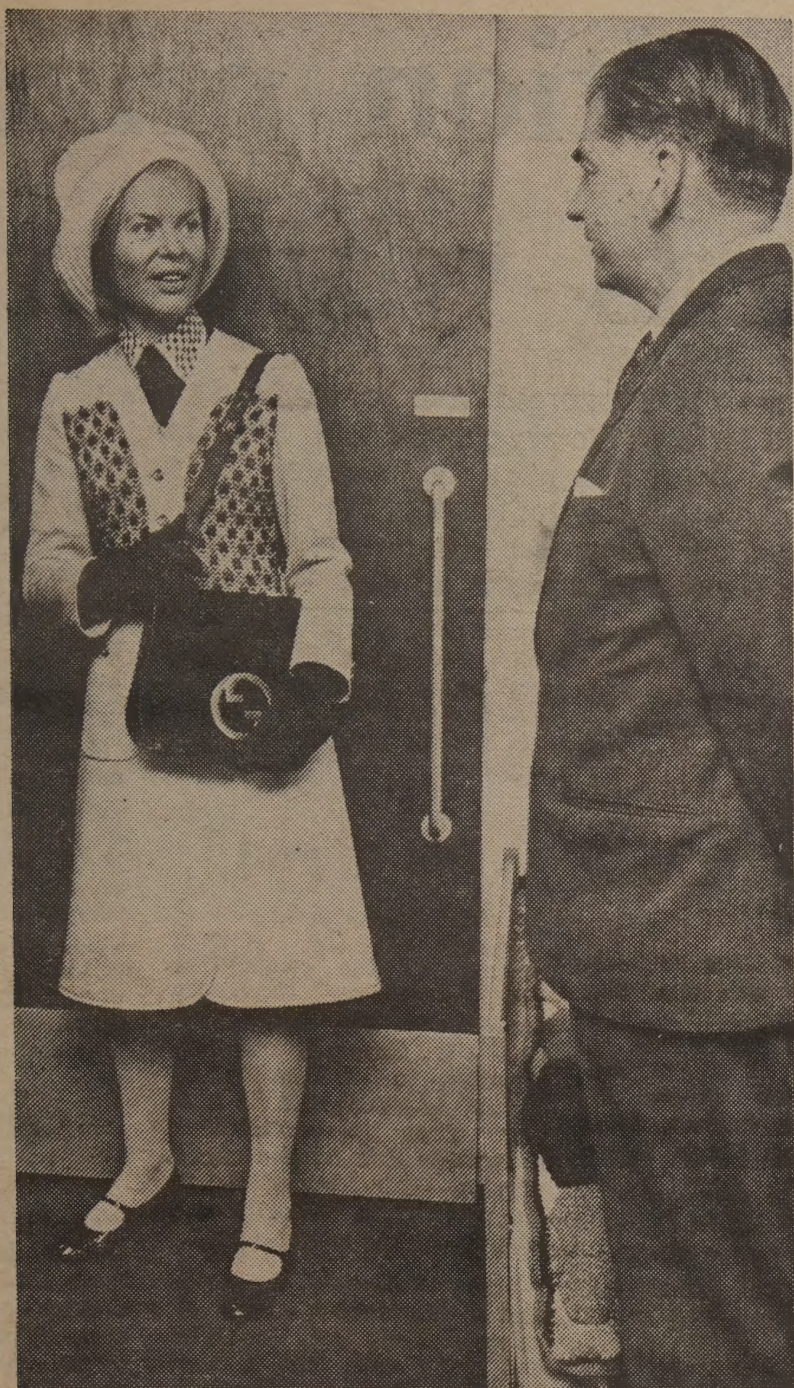
Splashes from the Spastics Pool

One comment that was made over and over again by the guests at the end of each week that in addition to having an enjoyable holiday, they had a better understanding of what the Spastics Pool means to supporters and The Spastics Society and other charities. This point was highlighted in a story of achievement by handicapped persons which brought the Thursday evening presentations to a close.

Both weeks had a wet and windy start, but as they progressed the weather improved, and with the Pontin's entertainment programme in full swing a relaxed and happy atmosphere soon became evident at both centres. Both camp managers, Jim Butler at Broadreeds, and Terry Divine at Blackpool, and their staffs ensured that the holidays would be remembered.

Picture below: General Manager of the Lancaster Training Centre Mr. R. Parkinson, extreme left, giving some of the Blackpool guests a conducted tour





Above: The Duchess of Kent tours the centre with Mr. William Gurn, Chairman of the Executive Council of The Spastics Society.



Above: A talk about Chiltern House with Mr. A. M. Bushnell, Chairman of the Oxfordshire Spastics Welfare Society Executive Committee, Mrs. E. Lucas, and Mrs. M. L. Hunt, who is assistant to Mr. A. Downes, right, the Local Appeals Officer with special responsibility for fund raising for Chiltern House.

New Union is set for battle

A LETTER from Paul Hunt published in Spastics News has resulted in the formation of the Union of the Physically Impaired, which it is hoped will start officially soon.

Mr. Hunt explained: "Our members are scattered all over the country and rather than call a meeting in London which would exclude those in the most isolated places who would find it difficult to get down here, we are conducting all our business by post—and of course it's taking rather a long time."

The Union is being started to oppose all forms of segregation and oppression of the disabled. The Union, says Mr. Hunt, intends to fight the isolation and segregation of the physically impaired in residential institutions, in special education, and in sheltered workshops, day centres and clubs.

All such segregated institutions need replacing by arrangements for the disabled to participate fully in society, said Mr. Hunt.

The Union is suggesting some radical proposals—for instance it is proposing to protect its independence by not registering as a charity or raising funds from the public, by not accepting patronage from individuals or organisations, and by not seeking publicity for individual members.

The Union's main initial task is seen to be to take up the issue of their social segregation amongst the disabled themselves.

Membership is to be open only to the physically impaired, but the Union intends to work with all other groups struggling against their oppression. Able-bodied people can help the Union initially by passing on information and by putting prospective members in touch.

Mr. Hunt is the Acting Secretary and his address is 61 Chettle Court, Ridge Road, London, N.8.



A meeting with Mr. and Mrs. J. Coombs, and again, that charming smile. Mr. Coombs is Chairman of the East Regional Co-ordinating committee, Chairman of Wycombe and District Spastics Society, and member of Chiltern Central Committee.

A warm welcome for the informal Duchess

THE visit of H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent, Patron of The Spastics Society, to Chiltern House Family Help Unit at Oxford, was "informal and private", which meant there were no speeches, no presentations, no protocol.

The Duchess simply met and talked with all the voluntary workers who have put such effort into the Chiltern House project, and was greatly interested in all they had to tell her. As you can see from the pictures it was a very happy afternoon, and the Duchess obviously enjoyed the friendly atmosphere as much as anyone else there.

In fact, the only slightly formal point in the visit came when—as shown in the picture below—the Duchess signed her name in the visitor's book. For the rest of her time at Chiltern House it was just a gathering of people—one of them our most welcome Royal visitor—who really care about the handicapped.



Above: Pictured above with the Duchess are Dr. E. F. Mason, a member of the Management Committee, and Mrs. Mason; Mrs. C. A. Clifton, of The Spastics Society, and Mrs. D. Wiggins, founder-member of Oxfordshire Spastics Welfare Society, and Chairman of Chiltern House Management Committee. Left: A picture which sums up the happy mood of the visit, with informality and smiles all round. Below: The Duchess went into the kitchen for a chat with houseparent Mrs. M. Stratford, and the caterer's staff.



No wonder they call her fashion's Best of Britain

WHEN H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent visits a school or centre for spastics as Patron of the Society, she not only brings warmth, charm and an obvious personal interest to the day, but always gives great pleasure because she looks so very attractive and elegant.

So it was no surprise to anybody who has seen the Duchess on her very welcome visits to read the tribute to her sense of style in the fashion pages of the Sunday Times recently.

The paper's fashion editor, Leslie Field wrote an article praising the Duchess as The Best of Britain. Here are some extracts:

The key

"The key to being well dressed is consistency, managing always to emerge with that style, and here in England no one manages to do this better than the Duchess of Kent. For ten years she has maintained an impeccable fashion image that always remains faithful to her roles of wife, mother and public figure."

"The Duchess of Kent's look is simple and subtle, the proportions absolutely pure and honed to the finest edge. Her clothes are always well cut and

beautifully made, as carefully fitted when they are Dior or John Cavanagh—though they are just as likely to be an off-the-peg outfit from Harrods or Harvey Nichols that could be bought in any high street. Often she shops at Marks and Spencer for her children's clothes.

Jewels

"The Duchess must have a formidable collection of jewels, but she always deploys them with restraint. Pearls, simple button earrings, a gold bracelet; nothing unobtainable or beyond the reach of any other woman. She is so well dressed that it must be automatic; her hair always becomingly arranged, her nails, although short, always lacquered."

"She edits herself severely—eliminating the unnecessary. Her signature touches—the shoulder strap handbag, the collar brooch, the simple pump, and the bracelet worn outside the long suede glove—are all scaled just as carefully as the proportion that dictates the knee-length hemline. She has a talent never to overdo a good thing. Her clothes never scream for attention, detracting from her own good looks."

"She is a careful connoisseur of the fashion magazines and

enjoys browsing through her favourite shops. Without necessarily aiming for a certain look, she manages to keep marginally ahead of what is in fashion at any given moment. Whatever she wears it is absolutely right for that particular occasion. Her clothes deflect an instinctive understanding of the public duties she performs, and the people she will see while carrying them out. She is, in every sense of the phrase, "The Best of Britain."

High kicks for a good cause

FOURTY-FOUR girl footballers from the staffs of four Aberdeen stores put in a lot of practice to ensure that their football was admired as greatly as their figures at a tournament at Linkfield Stadium in Sunday, May 27.

The tournament was held in aid of the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics and was organised in conjunction with Falconers, Marks & Spencer, Woolworth and Littlewoods stores by Mrs. J. W. Christie, Stonehaven, wife of the Scottish Council's North-East District Officer.

Society's literary competition prizes for words ways with



Above: Richard with his sister and Mrs. Mary Wilson.

RICHARD Gomm was unable to thank Mrs. Wilson when she presented him with his prize as the male poetry winner, and when they discussed their mutual love of poetry afterwards, he had to communicate by pointing at letters on a board with a rod strapped to his forehead.

For Richard cannot speak or use his limbs. But despite these devastating handicaps, he has just had his first book of poems, "The Seasons of My Life" published; is going to Ewell Technical College in September to study for three "A" levels, and hopes for University later.

Richard, aged 20, lives at Cheam Road, East Ewell, Surrey, and attends the Society's Thomas Delarue School. He went to the prizegiving with his sister Debbie. They are inseparable, and Debbie can communicate with Richard without the need for words. Their mother, Mrs. Kathleen Gomm, says that Debbie "just knows what he is thinking."

Mrs. Wilson, herself a best-selling poet, said that Richard won first prize because of his "rich imagery and feeling for words. It is only a short poem, but nevertheless it conveys a vivid picture."

Here is Richard's award-winning poem:

WILLOWS GROW BENT

The steely wind has turned the yellow leaves
To beggars' rags, that now lie discarded
As dying dreams upon unfeeling earth,
For squirrels to rustle among
In search of fallen acorns;
Whilst the pale sun, an old copper pendulum,
Slowly swings across the misty horizon;
And the hunched willows grow bent . . .
This is not the time to be alone.

TWO factors clearly emerged from her study of the work entered by spastics for the Society's literary contest, said Mrs. Mary Wilson, wife of the Leader of the Opposition when she presented the prizes to the winners. The first was that spastics did not feel that the general public understood their problems, and the second was that, possibly as a compensation to handicap, the entrants showed great powers of observation and acute perception.

Mrs. Wilson, who was presenting the prizes to the winners of the contest for the third year running, praised the high standard of work in the competition which is organised by The Spastics Society, and open to spastics throughout Britain. This year's entry was the largest ever.

The winners came to London for the Awards ceremony from all over the country, and after a celebration lunch at the Society's Family Service and Assessment Centre in Fitzroy Square, London, they went to the Society's head-

quarters in nearby Park Crescent, to receive their prizes and meet members of the judging panel, and a battery of photographers and reporters.

His appeal

Many of the younger entrants in the competition are hoping for University careers, and Mr. James Loring, the Society's Director, appealed to all centres of further education not to prevent them from fulfilling their ambitions by the sheer physical difficulties of living and working in buildings not adapted for the handicapped.

Every University, he said, should undertake a survey of accommodation and mobility and make sure that it was possible for handicapped people to attend. This would involve some Universities in considerable expense in adapting buildings and providing better access, but it would be a good investment in the long run because mobility would improve for everyone.

They help

Most Universities who accepted school-leavers from the Society's schools take special steps to adapt to their requirements, said Mr. Loring, but others were surprised at the problems presented by a handicapped student. While University authorities usually did their best to help, most of their buildings were not designed for handicapped people. There have been cases where young people who had satisfied all the requirements

for a University education, had been forced to withdraw because of access and accommodation difficulties.

These problems of further education must not be neglected, said Mr. Loring. The fact that severely handicapped people might find it difficult to obtain open employment afterwards must not deter them from having a University education if they wanted it, and had worked for it.

Achievement

Speaking of the literary contest, Mr. Loring, said he thought it was very good for spastics to enter into stiff competition amongst themselves, and it was also very good for the general public to understand that there was a very strong desire for achievement by handicapped people.

He also expressed the sincere thanks of the Society to the firms who have so generously donated the cash prizes for the competition — the Peter Johnson hotel group of Kingston and Chelsea, William R. Warner and Co. Ltd., and Parke-Davis.



He tried again and again

Robert Owens, pictured above with writer Colin Reid who judged him winner of the Male Over 25 section of the contest is a living example of the old maxim: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

For Robert, aged 51, of Pen Tai, Glan Conwy, Colwyn Bay, North Wales, has twice been a runner up in the contest. Now his persistence has been rewarded with first prize in his section, and he is the pride of his tiny village.

Robert's essay "Portrait of a Community", said Colin Reid, "quite delightfully evokes a vanishing way of life in a small Welsh village. He leads you gently and nostalgically into the heart of it; you can almost feel the farm around you and taste the buttermilk."

The runners-up

SCHOOLBOYS

John Ossaway, 13½, 99 Moyard Crescent, Belfast, attending Mitchell House School, Belfast. James Bird, 15, 90 High Street, Burnham-on-Crouch, and Thomas Delarue School. Gary Binyon, 10, 4 Doidge Road, Birmingham 23, and Carlson House, Birmingham.

YOUNG ADULTS

Gillian Slow, 17½, Meadow Farm, Hitchin and Thomas Delarue School. Ann Trotman, 20, 1 Syston Park, Kingswood, Bristol. Eric Booker, 20, 153 Kingsway North, Clifton, York, and York '62 Club. Mark Sadler, 17, 26 First Ave., Gillingham and Thomas Delarue School.

OVER 25

Joan Ross, 9 Ramsay Court, Park Road, N.8. and N. London, Spastics Assn. Jacqueline Dickinson, 3 Ellenborough Park Road, Weston-super-Mare. T. J. Mobbs, Church Bungalow Farm, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft. David G. Edwards, 30, 15 Perry Street Gardens, Chislehurst, and London 62 Club.

SCHOOLGIRLS

Ann Robertson, 15½, 10 Glensax Road, Peebles, and Peebles High School. Janet Lewis, 15, 3 St. Margaret's Drive, Henleaze, Bristol, and Thomas Delarue School. Caron Walker, 14, 20 Lady Nairne Crescent, Edinburgh, and Westlea School.

POETRY

Owen Davies, 30, 36 Priors Way, Dunvant, Swansea, and London 62 Club. Timothy L. Wood, 26, 145 Brooke Road, N.16 and London 62 Club. C. P. R. Lindoe, 15, 4 Retgate Drive, Attenbrough, Beeston, and Thomas Delarue School. Gary Binyon, 10, 4 Doidge Road, Birmingham 23, and Carlson House School, Angela Chaundy, 21 Downside Road Erdington, Birmingham 24, and Carlson House School. Carol Peacock, 13½, 23 Foster Road, Portwood, Southampton, and Thomas Delarue School. Anne Preece, 30, 83 St. Joseph's Court, Merryhill, Wolverhampton, and Smiling Faces Club. Rosalind Osborne, Coed-Emrys, Coed Pella Road, Colwyn Bay.



Carole Matthews went to the literary contest reception not only to receive her prize as winner of the schoolgirls section but to present a welcoming bouquet to Mrs. Mary Wilson. Carole lives at Mount Culler Avenue, Footscray, Kent, and is a pupil at the Thomas Delarue School. Judge Esther Rantzen said Carole's story "Underwater Exploration" made "really fascinating reading."



Janet Evans, pictured right at the prizewinners lunch with Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, and Mr. Tony Frank, two of the Society's Assistant Directors, won the Over 25, female section, with her article "Number Please?" about her work as a telephonist.

It was the second time Janet, of Mayfield Avenue, Prittlewell, Southend, has been a winner in the contest. This year, her section judge, journalist Anne Edwards commented: "The style is crisp and clear and the material is informative. The writer communicates a zest for life and general enjoyment which is infectious."

Janet is secretary of the Southend '62 Club, and is engaged to fellow member Paul Swanton.

for their winning



Picture above: Carole Matthews, aged 16, and Vincent Freeman, 12, pictured at the reception with TV personality Esther Rantzen who awarded them first prizes when she judged the schoolchildren's section of the contest. Standing in the background is fellow judge, writer Angela Ince.

Pictured right, receiving her prize as the female young adult winner is 17-year-old Judith Underwood, of Earls Court Road, Amesbury, Wiltshire, who is a pupil at the Society's Thomas Delarue School.

Angela Ince said of Judith's essay "Blue-White Flower": "An imaginative and evocative piece of writing; I thought Judith showed an unusual ability for using words to produce a mood."



"Well done, Willie", a story of a dream in which he won a motor cycle race, won the male young adult section for William Owens, aged 17, of Rhindmuir Road, Baillieston, Glasgow. It took severely handicapped William three weeks to type his story because he cannot use his right hand and has only partial use of his left.

William is pictured left with his mother, Mrs. Helen Owens, and Miss Margaret Morgan, Head of Social Work and Employment for the Society, at the winner's lunch. Writer Angela Ince, who awarded William the prize in his section commented: "I liked the good-humoured way he dealt with the problems of being a spastic."

Special awards for Irish children

WHEN winners of the annual Spastics Society Literary Contest were chosen — two little Irish children should have been barred because they were not eligible to enter the competition, but the Society decided that the pair showed such special courage that they would give them two special prizes.

A Literary Commendation will go to 13 year old John Ossaway of Moyard Crescent, Belfast, who wrote about the fact that he knows about flying bullets in much the same way that most children know about cornflakes.

Crossfire

Having lived in the Strand and Anderson Town areas of Belfast he has an intimate knowledge of the Belfast troubles. He has seen his sister shot at and had been caught in crossfire. His problems were increased by his being a haemophilic. Diving for cover means a cut and a week in hospital.

Teresa Crozier, 13, of Westland Road, Portadown, told how she had broken her legs 23 times because she plays just like other children even though she has brittle bone disease.

Director of The Spastics Society James Loring has sent her a box of chocolates as a personal gift.

Mr. Loring said. "The competition is really just for spastic children and adults, but we are not a parochial organisation, and are concerned that these two children have to suffer the dual problems of being handicapped and living in a strife torn area. We limit the contest to spastics because many have multiple handicaps and special problems. There is a sort of parallel with John and Teresa."

Both children attend the Belfast Mitchell House School.

* * *

The literary contest prize-winners and their relatives or escorts were entertained to lunch before the award ceremony. In the picture below they are seen lunching in the dining room at the Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre at Fitzroy Square, London.



Now to University

SUSAN Foster, pictured above receiving the women's poetry prize from Mrs. Wilson for her entry "The Ash" has overcome many difficulties to win a place at Durham University for a degree course in sociology and social administration.

She will enter the University in October, travelling daily from her home in Davis Crescent, Langley Park, Durham. The University place has not been achieved without a struggle.

Susan, now 23, passed the 11-plus, but the education authorities did not think she could cope with a grammar school education. So, it was the

secondary modern for Susan, and later an office training course. "But I couldn't get a job, so I went to work in a factory," she said. "The work was so boring and monotonous that after a couple of years I decided it was 'now or never' and took the plunge by going back to study."

Since then, Susan has never looked back. At last she could prove her brain power, and prove it she did by taking six 'O' levels and three 'A' levels in two years. University was the next obvious step, and her coveted place, has, said Susan, "made me feel it is worth sticking into hard work and really getting somewhere." She hopes for a career in social work. Here is her prizewinning poem:

The house and garden are surrounded there are trees everywhere, solemn pines the sturdy firs, their branches swaying moved by the summer breeze. But there in the corner made by the garden wall You stand alone. Ash. Not resilient as the pine, but tall, gentle, fine and elegant as the sun filters through your trembling leaves. With a nature of your own you have a gentle air, radiating tranquility, reflecting the peace of the summer day. For you no squat trunk or heavy branches, Instead, fine strong limbs spreading gracefully into the air. Your leaves a haze of green against the bright clear sky. Gentle Ash are you a happy tree, living, growing there? As you watch people and the seasons come and go, secrets kept, trusts broken, seeing all— life, death, hate and love around you Yet keeping all to yourself in forced silence a silence which bears no grudge. For you life will continue, generations will pass you by. Unaffected by the turmoil of the world you will live on, retaining your peace sharing your contentment.



Public must put pressure on councils — Director

THERE was an "astounding" lack of reaction by some local authorities to the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, and the public must put more pressure on them to implement the Act's provisions, said Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society when he spoke at the West Region Conference at Exeter University.

In addition, he said, it was essential that the public learned to work as volunteers with local authorities. It was futile to expect local and central government to do it all. A complete change of attitude was needed towards the handicapped who were not being catered for at all in some areas.

Education

Mr. Loring also spoke of the lack of uniform and adequate educational facilities for handicapped children, and said thousands were waiting to get into special schools. Parents were being "fobbed off" and told to do the best they can with their children.

The Conference, with its theme "Services for Spastics" was very well attended by local group members throughout the Region. They were welcomed by Professor Harry Kay, University Vice-Chancellor, and heard talks by Mr. G. P. Newton, Wiltshire's Director of Social Services, Dr. W. Schutt of the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Miss D. G. Clark, H.M. Inspector of Special Schools, and Mrs. Joyce Smith, a member of the Society's Executive Council, and Chairman of the West Regional Coordinating Committee.

Parents attending the day-long conference were able to leave their children in a creche manned by the Red Cross and Devon and Exeter Spastics Society.

"Life" men made toys in prison

DELIGHTFUL dancing puppets, appealing gongs and cuddly teddy bears have come from the hands of "lifers" in Portsmouth's Kingston Prison to raise money for spastics.

A few months ago the prison was approached by Mr. D. G. Smith, the Society's South East Regional Officer who supplied a quantity of raw materials. On May 16 he returned to accept nearly 100 items including models and pottery made by 10 prisoners who had given up their spare time to design and make them.

The goods will go on sale at the South of England Show at Ardingley to raise money for a holiday home, in the Brighton area.

Our tribute to the volunteers

THE South East London Spastics Society is one of the local voluntary groups which share the national organisation's 21st birthday this year, and to mark the occasion, the group rounded off Spastics Week with a grand anniversary party held at Minor Hall, S.E.10. It was attended by members of the group and Greenwich Spastics Fellowship, joined by many local well wishers.

A Spastics News photographer was there to record the event as a Spastics Week tribute to the devoted bands of volunteers who year after year work with dedication and a spirit of selfless service for their less fortunate fellow citizens in communities throughout the country.



The Mayor present Mr. Fullard with a cheque from the Friends of Spastics for £21—one pound for each year of the group's existence.



Cutting the 21st Birthday cake. Left to right, the Mayoress of Greenwich, Mrs. Scales; The Mayor, Mr. Charles Scales; Mrs. Stanley, social secretary, South East London Group; Mr. H. Fullard, group Chairman; Mr. Jobson, group treasurer.



ABOVE: Mayoress, Mrs. Scales, who is Chairman of Friends of Spastics with members of her committee. Also Mr. T. J. A. Breen, Director of Social Services for Greenwich, and Mr. John Yardley of the group.



Pictured left are: Mr. Hooker, organiser of the Spastics Fellowship; Mr. Spicer, Social Services Officer for Lewisham; Mrs. I. Stanley, social secretary; Mrs. Jane Churcher, Local Appeals Officer for the Society's London Region; Mr. Breen, the Mayoress, Mrs. D. Taylor, group secretary, the Mayor, Mr. Fullard, Mr. Jobson, and Mr. and Mrs. Atkins who run Greenwich House Community Centre, where the Spastics Fellowship meet every Thursday.

SILENCE BRINGS THEM MUSIC

A SPONSORED silence has brought music to youngsters of Stanmore House Residential Occupational Centre, near Lanark.

The "silent" donors were pupils of Larkhall Academy who raised £170 by their effort and spent it on buying an ultra-modern stereo sound unit.

It was handed over to the Warden of Stanmore, Mr. T. E. Weatherhead at a recent ceremony attended by pupils from both establishments.

Mr. Weatherhead thanked the Larkhall visitors for their thoughtfulness in providing such a generous gift. The sound unit would be extremely useful both for specific B.B.C. Schools broadcasts and leisure activities, he said.

"Thankyou" gifts for 100 hard workers

ONE hundred luxury necklaces of classic design have been made by Spastics Society home workers — spastics who are confined to their

homes and are employed making jewellery.

The necklaces are their way of saying thank you in this 21st anniversary year to per-

sonalities at all levels of The Society.

First of the 100 to receive the gift was Mrs. Sheila Rawstone, secretary of the Stars Organisation for Spastics.

"I was at a conference when Mr. Dobson of the Home Work section quietly handed me this pendant. I was absolutely amazed and tremendously touched. They thought that as I was the longest serving member of The Society — I was the first employee 21 years — I should have the first one."

Her necklace is a pendant the brainwave of Mr. A. Dobson. "I thought of it earlier this year. We chose the coffee and cream colour scheme as being neutral and most accep-

table because it can be worn with anything.

"Another necklace called the anniversary model is being made with the anniversary date stamp and will be for sale but the presentation model is special. It's for people who have worked specially hard for us."

"Some of them don't even know they're getting them. I gave Mrs. Rawstone's personally because I know she'd be at the conference but it isn't always going to be possible and some will have to be delivered by post."

Coincidentally, Mrs. Rawstone's necklace was made by one of the longest serving home workers — Miss Mavis Oxford of Southend-on-Sea, Essex.

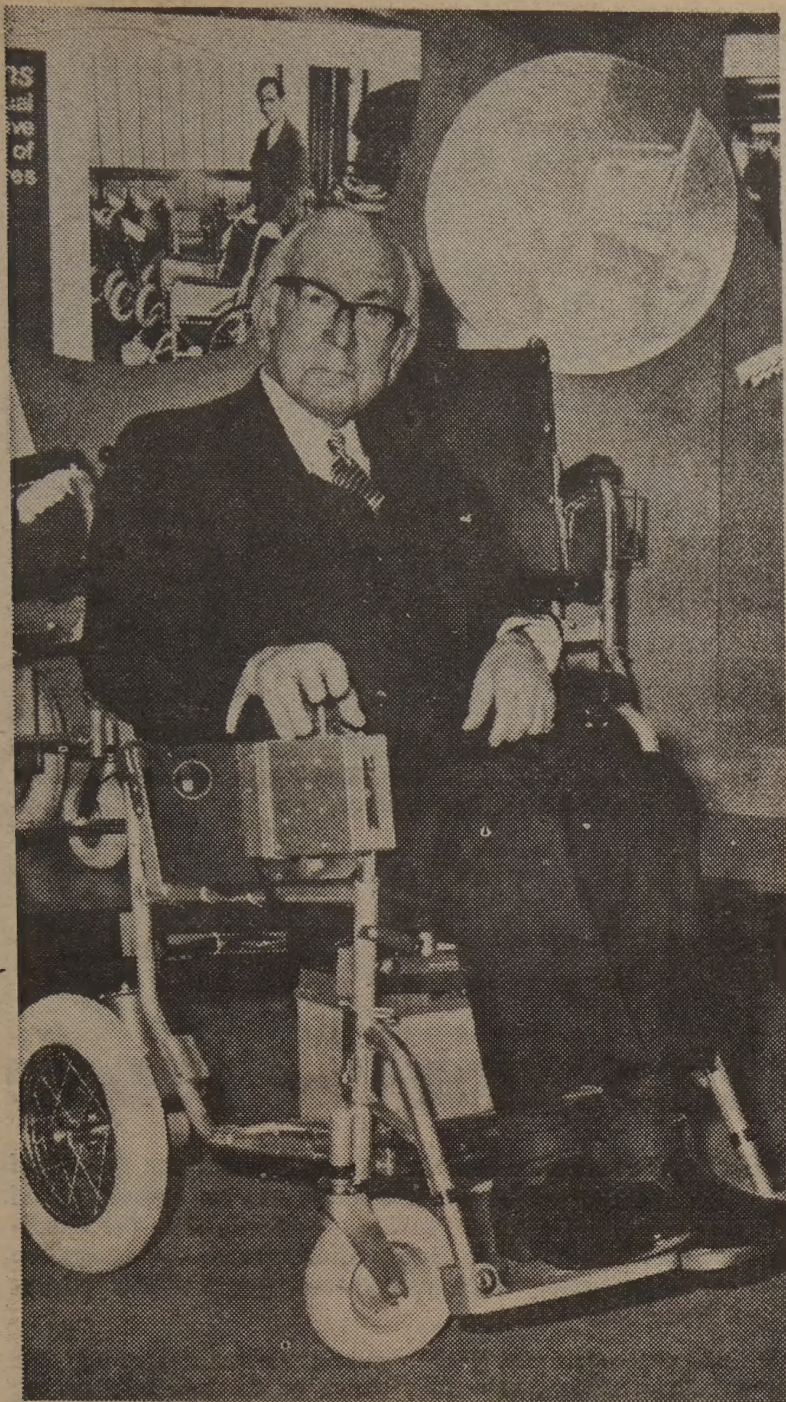
So where there's brass there's cash

THE sounding of brass should mean the chink of money for a local group.

For the last three years the William Davis Construction band has given a concert during Spastics Week in aid of the Coalville and District Spastics Society. They couldn't manage it this year so they came up with an alternative arrangement which it is hoped

will bring in even more money.

They, along with the two finalists in a brass band contest sponsored by Radio Leicester, will put on a concert conducted by Harry Mortimer, O.B.E. the famous brass band conductor. The first half of the evening of brass on June 3 will be given over to the finals of the contest, and the concert will be performed during the second half.



Lord Cohen of Birkenhead, President of the Royal Society of Health and Chairman of The Society's Advisory Board tries out the Society's new electric wheelchair, the Newton E. He unveiled it on The Society's stand at the recent R.S.H. exhibition at Eastbourne with a Union Jack borrowed from Eastbourne Town Hall. After trying out the revolutionary electric wheelchair Lord Cohen praised it: "It's an interesting new development and I wish the Society well with it."

Petition born out of frustration

"A WOMAN tried for eight months to get a ramp put outside her house by the local authority. When the workmen eventually came she'd been dead three weeks — this is the sort of hold-ups we're fighting against."

Mrs. Evelyn Haydon 30, is married to Frank Haydon 51, a polio victim since he was three-months-old and at the beginning of May they launched a petition to present to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for the Social Services.

The Haydons are fighting on behalf of themselves and the many disabled people they know in the Medway Towns.

"The petition was born out of sheer frustration at not being able to get things done. At the beginning of the year Frank was very ill with pneumonia and I asked the Council for a ramp, a sliding door and a bathrail. The first two I got quite quickly but the rail — which was most important of all — I had to wait eight months for. I was going from one department to another and they were all saying the same thing — we don't deal with this . . ."

The Haydons live in Rochester and have two children, seven-year-old Trevor and Tracey aged four. And they have a fleet of friends taking the petition around neighbouring Kent towns such as Gravesend and Rochester. The youngest pair aged 13 and 14 have already collected 300 signatures since the beginning of May.

The petition asks the Government to review the plight of the chronically sick and disabled and the elderly and further asks: (1) To stop hold-

ups in local authorities, (2) to provide people who can visit welfare cases more often, (3) to look into the safety of invalid cars and (4) to review all pensions with rising prices.

"It is the first time that we've thought of having a petition and we can only hope the outcome will be that there will be less hold-ups and so on. I know the welfare services are overworked but couldn't they use lay people to go round to the shut-ins and takes necessary notes to give the service? That way there would be time for someone to stay and have a cup of tea and a natter which is so often what these people want," said Mrs. Haydon.

"If they could centralise their welfare services so that you just got on to one person it would be an improvement.

"Then you couldn't get these continual hold-ups. Once my husband was very bad so I decided to ring the local authority to get a sliding toilet door. Within ten minutes I'd been transferred to six different people who all claimed it was the responsibility of another department. In the end I rang the local paper and next day the Council workmen were round to fix the lavatory door."

Mr. Haydon will present the petition to Sir Keith at the beginning of June and hopes to lead a deputation of the disabled with the petition.

Society to launch national schools campaign for new helpers

ETON, Harrow and Winchester scholars could be working alongside Approved School boys to help spastics during the Society's new National Schools Campaign.

Seven thousand schools will be invited to take part in a nationwide competition to raise funds, and they represent every type of educational establishment from Public School to corrective institution.

They will be aiming at raising money and winning prizes ranging from colour TV sets worth £300 to books and sports equipment.

Mr. Robin Daniels, Senior Appeals Development Officer said: "We found over the years that many schools help in many ways by sponsored walks and so on. By introducing a national campaign and adding a flair in the way we put it over, and with the added incentive of

very attractive prizes, we will get a two-fold result.

"Firstly I think a bonanza in income for spastics, and secondly a number of young people can spend their time and energy in a worthwhile way and enjoy the teamwork. In the long run the educational value of young people having associated themselves with the cause of the handicapped will give them a spirit of community service."

Lord Maybray-King, the former Horace King who used to be speaker of the House of Commons, is President of the Campaign.

Mr. Daniels commented: "The Society is very honoured that someone so eminent and respected in public life and

also in the educational world should be our president. Already he has been most co-operative in all the preparatory work, and he's looking forward to taking part in this prizegiving at the end of 1974."

The prizes are worth well over £3,000 and there will be 10 for prep schools and 10 for their higher age brackets. It is hoped it will be possible to have first and second prizes and the ten prizes for each set of schools will be divided up into eight regional prizes, based on the Society's regions, and two national prizes. These should inspire some exciting competition because they are for the school raising the most money, irrespective of the pupil population, and for the most novel fund raising idea.

As Robin Daniels observed, "They may well come up with the germ of an idea for fund raising which we can follow-up."

Amongst those helping with the sponsorships are Neil Darroch of Rediffusion, John Hitchin, a director of Penguins, Trevor Osbourn of Longmans and Ian Cleave of Mitre Sports.

The money raised by schools will be credited to Regional Groups where they exist, and schools who are already committed to raising money for the Society will have their contributions credited.

"KNOCKOUT" EFFORT FOR FUNDS

A SPECIAL edition of the popular BBC Television show "It's A Knock-out" has raised £250 for the Society's Hawksworth Hall School.

Taking part were members of this year's Cup Final teams, Leeds United and Sunderland.

The game was recorded and later shown during the BBC's Cup Final Grandstand.

It was won by Sunderland — a foretaste of their subsequent victory at Wembley.

1,000 in stately sponsored walk

NUNS in their habits were among nearly a 1,000 volunteers who strode out round the magnificent Sussex estate of the Duke of Norfolk on May 18 in a sponsored walk for Spastics. The way was stony — along chalk and flint bridle paths which led a fair number of the walkers into the Red Cross first aid posts for treatment for their blisters and cuts.

Another hazard was the late arrival of the soft drinks because the catering van broke down — the first party to reach a check point went thirsty for a while.

The intrepid walkers were school children from 10 schools around Arundel, Lancing College, Our Lady of Zion Convent, Horsham High School and Herbert Skinner School, Petworth among them. The Army helped out on the check points with radio controlled jeeps and the Red Cross brought along three ambulances which fortunately were unused.

It took the children between two and a half and four and a half hours to tramp the 10 miles round the Ducal estate. It is hoped the walk will have raised several thousand pounds for the S.E. Region but the amount will not be known for another month.

The wedding took place recently of Andrew Jackson and Jane Chiffers. The couple are both ex-students of Dene Park Further Education Centre, although they attended the College at different times.

They met at the Bridgwater Work Centre in Somerset and are now living in Taunton.



A sponsored walk was held in the grounds of Hatfield House during Spastics Week. Over 100 young people took part and they hope to have raised more than £1,000. The money will be shared between the Hertfordshire Spastics Society and the Welwyn Garden City Group. The picture shows Paul Newman (right) being pushed over the five-mile course by Chris Cavalier. With them are, left to right Paulette Cavalier, Susan Day and Paul's twin sister, Carole.

Picture by courtesy of Welwyn Times

Students create new "image"

STUDENTS on an advertising / business course at Stockport Technical College think The Spastics Society needs a face lift. And to prove their point have produced a series of hard hitting posters and leaflets.

The Society's Director, Mr. James Loring went to the College to see their work and said he thought they had some "sound ideas."

Four teams of students tackled the problems of updating the Society image as if they were advertising agencies competing for a contract. All the teams felt that their was not enough consistency in adverts, posters etc. and decided there should be links between all that the public sees. There were some good designs and some striking art work.

The first team said people needed to know more about cerebral palsy and had such poster ideas as one headed: "It takes John 10 minutes to write his name — how long will it take you to write a cheque." This combined information and a direct appeal for money.

The second group of students thought that the Society's image warranted a "discreet" campaign but toyed with emotive headlines such as "Some Mother Do Have 'em." Another was "Some of our children never leave home," which was simple and striking.

The third group thought spastics shops potentially lucrative but badly designed at the moment. There was also a strong idea for a child's letter from a spastics' younger brother who would like his big brother to be able to write "like me". Again on the shops a general poster saying "Do us a favour, find yourself a bargain at the local spastics shop" was one of the ideas.

Group number four called for strong emotive headlines such as "Why is it some kids can't do as they are told," and "You'd think some kids have no homes to go to."

Mr. Loring thanked the students for their efforts and pointed out the moral dilemma of a charity appearing "slick" with its advertising campaign and arousing public displeasure of "wasted money," but at the same time needing effective money raising campaigns.

The service

Cont. from Page 3

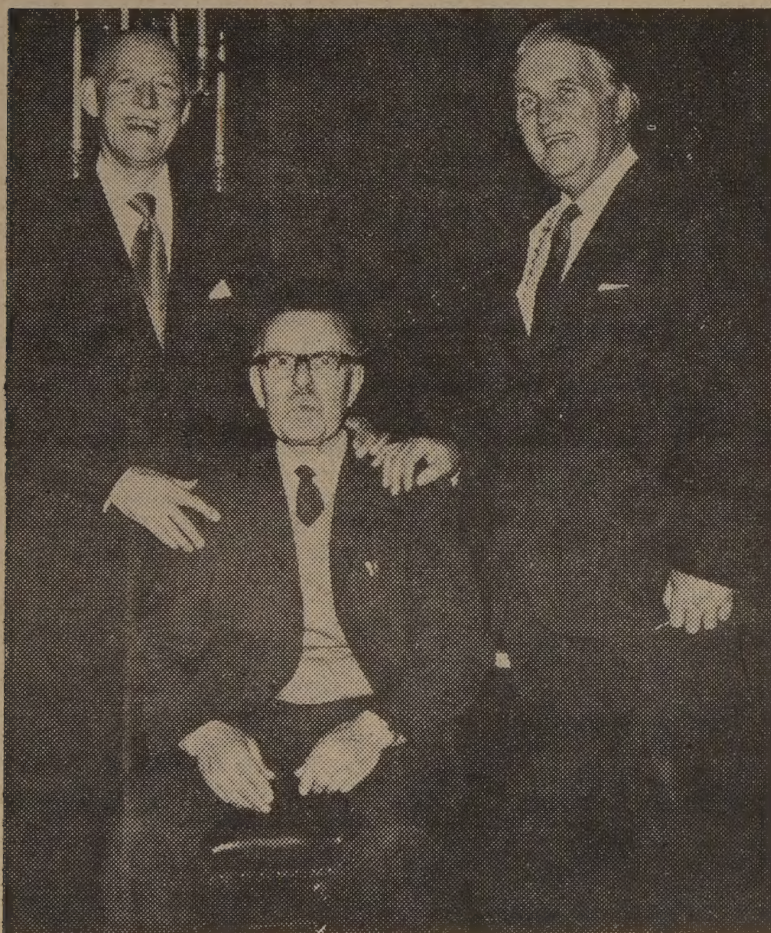
that which surmounts incessant suffering. Men, women; boys, girls; people like Dick Boydell have really only one hope of escaping from their prison, and that is by something that lies within themselves.

"Of course they need their loving and devoted parents, the generosity and tenacity of friends like The Spastics Society, the technological ingenuity of devises like POSSUM. But none of these doors provide the exit into the bright world outside the dungeon of suffering unless there is the key of personal courage.

"And I mean courage plus staying power; the courage that goes on year after year; the courage of a brave little child; the courage of an adolescent boy or girl which can confront the cruel realisations of growing up and emerge even braver and less embittered than ever before."



Above: Guests in the magnificent Livery Hall which the Worshipful Company of Grocers donated for the reception.



Above: Three men who were in at the beginning of the Society, 21 years ago, and saw it grow to one of the world's leading organisations for the handicapped. Left is Mr. Reg Cumplen, now the Society's Secretary; centre is inspired fund-raiser Mr. George Lauder and on the right is Mr. Ian Dawson Shepherd, a founder-member and the first Chairman. Below: Sir Geoffrey Jackson, left, chats with Professor Paul Polan, of the Society's Paediatric Research Unit at Guy's Hospital, and Mr. Claud Grey, who when he worked as an accountant during the very early days, kept the funds under his bed because the Society could not afford a safe!



Above: Mr. William Burn, Chairman of the Executive Council of The Spastics Society, with Mrs. Burn, Miss Peggy Agnew, Mr. T. K. Owens, Director of the National Council of Social Service, and Mrs. Mary Wilson.



Above: Mr. Alfred Morris, M.P., a champion of the disabled in Parliament, with Mr. James Loring, Director of the Society; Mrs. Loring, second left, and Mrs. Morris, extreme left.



He told the guests who were chosen from the ranks of people who had helped the Society since it was formed 21 years ago: "You represent the vast body of people in this country who are behind the Society and working to fulfil its aims and objectives."

Today, said Mr. Burn, there was a new stirring of social conscience and a heightened

Thankyou to Society's richest asset — people

THE greatest asset of The Spastics Society, but one that could not be listed on the balance sheet, was the enthusiasm of the people who worked to provide a better life for the handicapped, said Mr. William Burn, Chairman of the Executive Council of the Society when he welcomed guests to the Spastics Week Reception.

Acceptance

Mr. Burn appealed for greater acceptance of spastics — and indeed all handicapped people — by the community, and a greater understanding of them as individuals rather than a special group cut off from everyday life and society.

The reception was held at the Grocers' Hall in the City of London, and the magnificent Livery Hall, plus the food and wine served, was donated to the Society by generous firms.

Left: Representatives of the sponsoring companies for the Society's new National Schools Campaign (story on page 9), attended the reception. From left to right: Mr. Trevor Osbourn, and Mr. David Jameson, of Longman Publishing, and Mr. Neil Darroch, of Rediffusion.



Above: Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, Society's Assistant Director, Services, Mrs. Sheila Rawstorne, secretary of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, and Mrs. C. E. Adey, a member of the Society's Executive Council.



Mr. Arthur Carr

Disabled need subsidised jobs — not Social Security says Arthur

TEN years ago Arthur Carr opened a commercial staff agency. Now he runs Carr's Rehabilitation and Employment Advisory Services as well.

"Until I started the staff agency I was not aware of the suffering of the sick and disabled so I have no right to criticise the Government or society. I believe that they don't have the foggiest idea of what it means to sit and interview a 15-year-old spastic boy who's got difficulty in walking and little power in his hands. The father's a factory foreman and taken the day off work to bring this lad to see me and he's LYING to me with love for his son and fear that the boy won't get a job — because the boy can't walk as well as his father pretends nor grasp a pen as hard as his father tries to make me believe."

"When they'd gone I had to write to my firms and tell them the truth — but one of the firms offered him a job. Now I've stood for Parliament — both for Labour and Tory and for 12 years I was private secretary to Aneurin Bevan when he was Minister of Health so when I claim they don't know personally about the suffering of the disabled I'd take it a stage further. I'd say they don't know what I know: The tremendous strength and courage of these people."

That's Arthur Carr speaking, a tough, blunt Yorkshireman, who's been in the Navy, worked with refugees in Hong Kong, been involved in politics and who now at 58, finds jobs for those deemed unemployable.

A chance

He's the man who gives the blind, the halt and the lame a chance—and very often it's the last chance because they've tried everywhere else and been turned down.

"Success depends on an employer offering a job, knowing the facts and being prepared to take a chance and on the sick and disabled having the courage and determination to take that chance. I'm just the link. I can't guarantee success but what I can guarantee is that we'll do our best."

It was in Fleet Street that Arthur Carr first opened a bureau. Slowly he realised he was getting the epileptic, the mentally and physically handicapped and all the other socially afflicted minority groups registering with him — and that he was spending 10 times as long, interviewing them 10 times as hard and in 10 times the depth of other clients.

"In fact in the 10 weeks we've been at our new address, 1 Robert Street, London, W.C.2 we've placed 50 sick and disabled in jobs. That represents £500-£750 in commercial terms, but I don't

charge any of the 3,000 firms I circulate because what I'm doing is taking the responsibility for society and Government."

His clients come to him through a variety of sources — welfare organisation such as the Samaritans and Alcoholics Anonymous, hospitals, prisons, probation and local authority welfare services — amounting to about 200 in all.

Frank dossiers are then compiled and mailed to the 3,000 firms Arthur has on his books. He believes that if he could double that number then he could double the number of sick and disabled placed in jobs.

"I don't write the dossiers in a silly, sentimental way that has the personnel officer breaking down in tears but with all the relevant details — and circumstances."

Tries again

Happily this list is augmented by another which gives accounts of those who have got jobs. If the first job proves unsatisfactory Arthur tries again — and again and again if necessary.

All this costs money — at least £8,500 a year. Money which at one time Arthur simply had not got. He continues to run the commercial bureau and he used the profits from this to support the Advisory service. The result was that last September his bank manager rang him to say he was £1,600 overdrawn — an overdraft the bank simply could not support without security. The same day Arthur received a visit from Geoffrey Wansell of The Times.

"Within three weeks of the article he wrote appearing I'd received £2,400 — from firms and organisations in this country and including £150 from a man and his wife

in the British Embassy in Peking, £10 from an English schoolmaster in Africa and £15 from a businessman in Italy.

"After that I was able to pay off the overdraft and start a separate account for the service. Now the service has been registered as a charity so we shouldn't have any more financial problems like that. Many trusts and organisations which couldn't make donations to us before because of their constitutions are now able to contribute."

He admits that Carr's Rehabilitation and Employment Advisory Service is a long-winded title. "Society and the Government don't understand the word rehabilitation like they do Oxfam or Shelter so in addition to getting people jobs I'm trying to get the word rehabilitation understood."

Arthur feels very strongly that the 1944 Act requiring firms with a staff of 50 plus to employ the disabled has not been nearly effective enough.

Law needed

"I don't approve of this solution. I think society and the Government's approach should be entirely different. My argument is that Parliament should pass legislation similar to the Bill passed three or four years ago authorising payments to victims of violent crime.

"The Government should see to it that there are incentive aids and other help for employers which would bring about a new deal for the sick and disabled and ex-offenders.

"Instead of paying Social Security to these people so that they become labelled as second-rate citizens, very often living profoundly unhappy lives and becoming a charge on the state in more ways than one, would it not be more intelligent and save an enormous amount of money if the Government said to employers; give the spastic, the epileptic, the rheumatoid arthritic and the recovered offender — a job.

"We know that the sick and

disabled may be off sick three or four times a year but instead of sacking them or leaving them at home on social security, pay them while they're working and when they're sick and receiving treatment fill in a form with their registered disabled number and then let the Government pay their wages, deductions and holiday money while they're off.

"Secondly—and I'm prepared to be completely outrageous with this suggestion, if the Government can give grants to businessmen and local authorities to subsidise bricks and mortar to build factories in high unemployment areas, or give incentives in the form of low rates to attract industry to dying areas, why should we not at least examine the idea of subsidising human beings!

Difficult

"Sure it might be difficult but wouldn't it be better for a first class secretary to receive £30 a week and a first class blind secretary £25 a week from an employer and £5 from the government or a man with one arm to work as a slow packer and earn the same wages as a fast packer by means of a state subsidy to the employer.

"I read the speech of an ex-Minister of Health saying that the sick and disabled did not want a classifying label hung round their necks. I'd argue that the sick and disabled know damn well that they've got a label hung round their necks by their disability and I believe that anything we do to help will not be resented."

Recently a blind boy applied to Arthur Carr for registration. He'd never held a job since leaving college yet within 48 hours he was offered two. Similarly six blind girls who'd also never had employment were placed in work in seven to 10 days. "Why is it?" asks Arthur "that a small employment agency like this can do it by merely wanting to. I'd argue that there should be special employment exchanges for the sick and disabled entirely separate to those for people merely changing jobs or made redundant."

Liz Cook

Down came the rain and washed the gala out

IT'S an ill wind that blows nobody any good and it was certainly an ill wind that haunted the projected grand charity gala that the Greater London Region Office arranged.

First of all it was planned to hold it at Battersea Funfair as part of the 21st year celebrations. Sadly there then occurred the tragic big dipper accident in which a number of children died. New management took over and knew nothing of arrangements made back in December 72.

So when the Society wrote to check arrangements for May 6 (the date agreed on) they were told the event would clash with a Variety Club gala on May 19.

The whole idea of a gala

was about to be abandoned when the Croydon folk group team, Folkweave, generously offered their services: "If you can get us a site we will dance anywhere for you."

So the gala was on again — this time at Paternoster Square, London, with displays, music and times organised down to the last detail.

However, disaster struck again: this time it was the weather that turned traitor and the wind and wet finally washed the gala out.

"Like other people" shown at Festival

THE love story of Margaret and Will, the spastic couple who starred in the film "Like Other People" was seen again last month when the film was shown at the British Sponsored Film Festival at Brighton.

The couple who met at the Society's Ponds Home, Seer Green, Buckinghamshire (now renamed the Princess Marina Centre) are now married and the film depicting their love for each other and the problems they faced drew wide praise from all quarters when it was premiered last year. It has since been shown on TV and to many gatherings at home and abroad. "Like Other People" was based on a brief from Mr. James Loring, Director of the Spastics Society and sponsored by the Mental Health Film Council.

It was also announced at the festival, organised by the British Industrial and Scientific Film Association, that Mrs. Margaret Mawer, secretary of the Mental Health Film Council is to try a new method of individual appraisal of films in order to keep abreast of the large number being made. It is hoped that members of BISFA will help with this by appraising films within their sphere.



JIMMY Jones, 21, of Leyland, Lancashire, has collected more than £300 for the handicapped by a sponsored tricycle ride.

Jimmy, who is himself a spastic, pedalled 18 miles from Preston to St. Annes in aid of PHAB (Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied Clubs).

He has been on several courses organised by PHAB and greatly enjoyed them, so decided to raise money to enable more handicapped people to benefit from the courses.

Jimmy Jones is pictured setting out on his sponsored ride, watched by friends and organisers of the Lancashire Youth Clubs Association.

Picture by courtesy of Lancashire Evening Post.

WAITING FOR A LETTER

PEN Friends are required for the following:—

John Moses, aged 28, from Wales, who is partially reliant on a wheelchair but can get around on his own indoors. He has a speech defect but can generally make himself understood.

He wishes to correspond preferably with a young lady aged about 30 who can walk and speak, with a sense of humour and, if possible, living

in South Wales. Please contact Mr. John Moses, 78 Victoria Road, Penarth, CF6 2HZ.

Miss Josephine Dickson, aged 18, from Yorkshire, would like a male pen friend. She is a mild spastic who can do everything for herself. Her interests are pop music and playing records.

Please write to Miss Josephine Dickson, 44 Holmfield Lane, Nevison, Pontefract, Yorkshire.

SPASTICS WEEK

CAR CONTEST

A "guess the car's mileage" contest was just one of the many fund-raising events which were held by the Doncaster and District Spastics Society during Spastics Week. Group officials expect to have raised about £200 over the week.

Picture by courtesy of Doncaster Evening Post



The wheelchair dance festival



ABOVE: Competitors gather on the edge of the vast dance floor at the start of the festival. LEFT: The "White Roses of York" team in action. BELOW: Max Bygraves presents a shield to "The Choughs" from Cornwall, winners of the Adult Group A section.

A winning surprise from Max Bygraves

ENTERTAINER Max Bygraves sprung a delightful surprise on The Spastics Society when he visited the third annual wheelchair dance festival at the Hammersmith Palais in May. Mr. Bygraves, who had come along as guest of honour to present some of the prizes told competitors that earlier in the day he had been playing golf with property developer Joseph Levy. Before their game both agreed that the loser would give a donation to spastics.

"Fortunately, I won," joked Mr. Bygraves and Joe Levy wrote a cheque for £250. Thunderous applause echoed through the dance hall as Mr. Bygraves presented the money to Mr. John Kellert, Assistant Director, Appeals, who was active as Master of Ceremonies at the Festival.

For this year's "Reels on Wheels" event, competitors had travelled from as far afield as Cornwall and Scotland, but their energy seemed undiminished. Their costumes made an attractive splash of colour as they skimmed with grace and agility across the huge dance floor.

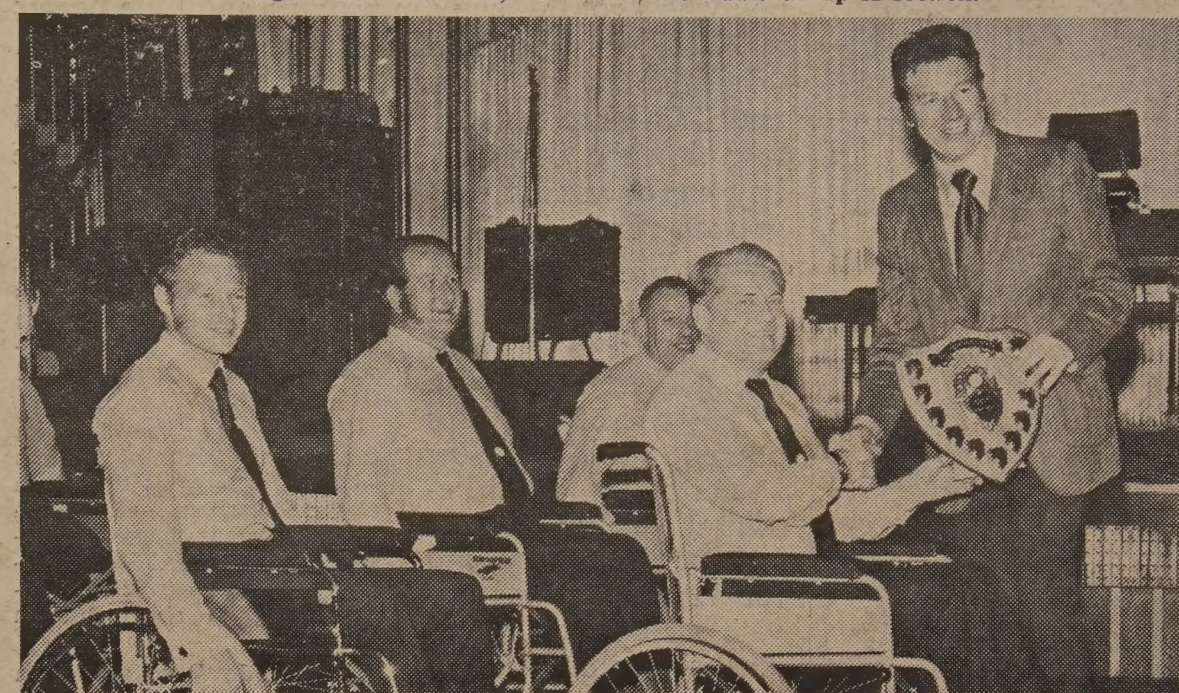
Each section was divided into 'A' and 'B' classes — the latter for more severely handicapped competitors who used electric chairs or propelled themselves with their feet.

The first part of the programme consisted of the well-known formation dances — reels, waltzes and other traditional favourites.

This was followed by the novelty section in which teams demonstrated routines which they had made up themselves.

The contest was judged by Mrs. A. Monzani and Mrs. Eddie Ghys, both professional dancing instructors and Mr. Tony Frank, the Society's Assistant Director, Regions.

Max Bygraves' fellow guest of honour was the Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham, Councillor Hill. The Mayor handed over the children's prizes and Mr. Bygraves presented shields to the adult winners. The cup for the novelty



Peter Stallwood of the Wilfred Pickles School.

section was presented by Sonny Bennett, professional dancing champion. Each team also received a Max Bygraves record.

PRIZEWINNERS

Adult A Section—1st The Choughs, from Cornwall (repeating their success in last year's festival). 2nd The Fifers from Scotland.

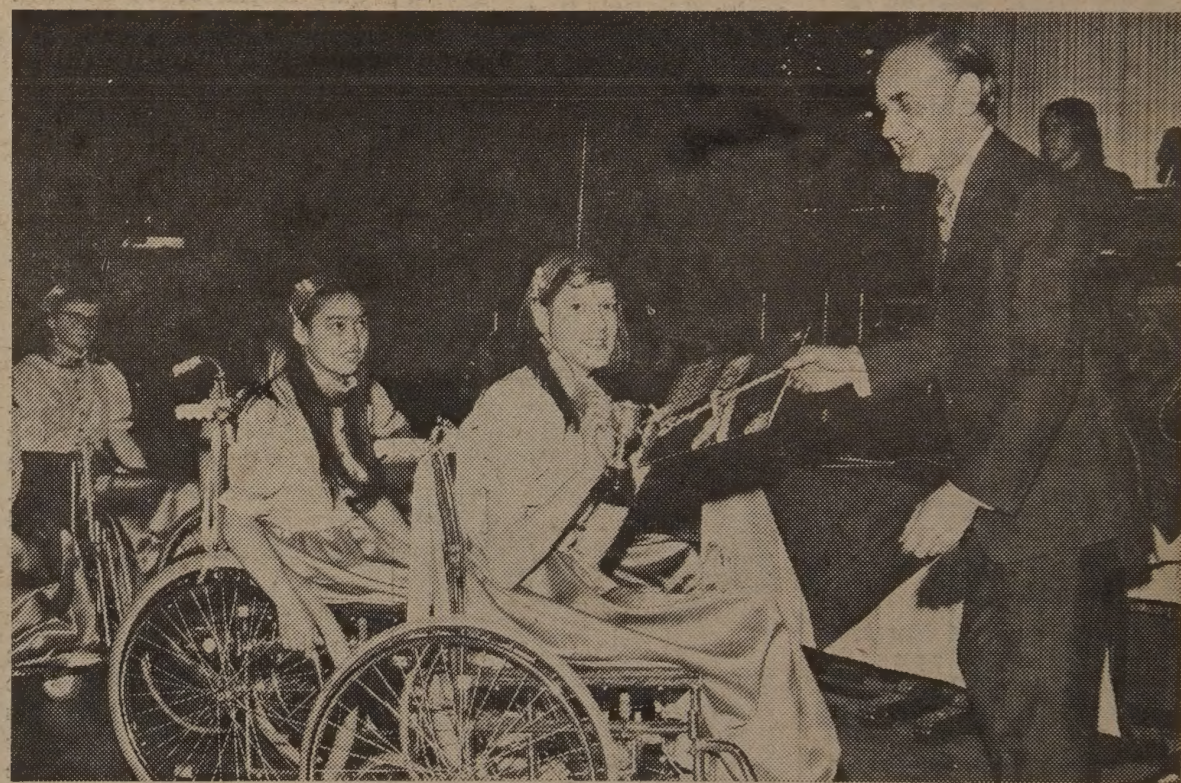
Adult B Section—1st The Goldfish, from the Society's Princess Marina Centre. 2nd The Kingsley Dancers, from the Bristol and District Spastics Association.

Children's A Section—1st The White Roses of York (a team new to the festival from the Northfield School, Acorn, York). 2nd A tie between Pant y Delyn (from Ysgol Erw'r Delyn School, Penarth and the Erosians (from the Coney Hill Shaftesbury Society School, West Wickham). 3rd Wilfred Pickles School (The Spastics Society's School, Duddington, Lincs.).

Children's B Section—1st George's Dragons I. 2nd George's Dragons II (both these teams are from Hangers Wood School, Watford, Herts.). 3rd Wilfred Pickles' 2nd Team.

Novelty Section A—1st White Roses of York. 2nd Pant y Delyn. 3rd The Choughs.

Novelty Section B—1st Kingsley Dancers. 2nd George's Dragons I. 3rd Goldfish.



ABOVE: Sonny Bennett presents a cup and a record to the "White Roses of York," attractive young winners of the Novelty Section.

PICTURE AT BOTTOM OF PAGE: "The Goldfish" team from the Society's Princess Martha Centre, Seer Green, Bucks.



Lyn Ham of the Wilfred Pickles School is obviously enjoying herself.



Above: The Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham, Councillor Hill, presents a shield to a representative of "George's Dragons I," winners of the Children's Group B section.